

in the expanded Legislative Council, the Dewan's announcement of the Devaswom policy, and the avowed policy of the Government in regard to the development of trade and commerce and the promotion of industries, and stated that he had great pleasure in conveying the people's gratitude to Government for these and other boons. The Member then represented that the Municipality of Mavelikara should have an elected President like other Municipalities. In the matter of house tax, it was unfair that the Mavelikara Municipality should be asked to levy it at 3 per cent, while the Municipal Council at Trivandrum was moving only on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent basis and added that they would meet with serious difficulties if they took steps on lines different from those of the premier Municipality in the State.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to your request for an elected President for the Mavelikara Municipal Council, I have referred to it in my address. If you had applied for an elected President, Government would have been glad to comply with your request. It was in pursuance of a resolution of your Council that a nominated non-official President was given to you.

Member.—It was the old Council that passed that resolution.

Dewan.—If the new Council passes another resolution, the Government will have no objection to allow an elected President for your Council when the term of the present President expires.

In regard to the rate of house tax, it is the resolution of your Council that it should be imposed at 3 per cent. You say that the resolution as regards the rate of house tax was passed at a meeting composed of a majority of officials. It is open to you to pass a fresh resolution to the effect that the rate should be only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There is no compulsion whatsoever in regard to this matter.

In regard to the extension of the limits of the Municipality also, it is only in case the Municipal Council asks for it that it will be sanctioned and not otherwise.

In regard to Haripad, that Municipal Council said that the limits of the Municipality should be extended so as to include the Kartikapalli village. Government did not agree at first. The Municipality insisted again and Government agreed. That is an instance to show that Government do not like to impose their wishes on Municipal Councils.

102. Certain needs of the Kayankulam Municipality.

Mr. N. Kesava Panikkar (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) said that Kayankulam was growing in importance as a town and that, as the converging point of the three agricultural taluks of Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Mavelikara, it was becoming more and more prominent every day as a busy centre of agriculture. In view of the extremely rural character of the place, a large number of animals such as cows, bulls and elephants were being maintained by the ryots either for agricultural or transport purposes. For want of a Veterinary Hospital the agricultural population was being put to great inconvenience and loss, especially when a contagious disease broke out among the cattle. The nearest veterinary institution they had was the one at Tiruvalla, about 20 miles from Kayankulam, and a journey to that place entailed the crossing of 5 or 6 ferries. The next veterinary institution to which they could resort was the one at Quilon, 42 miles away from Kayankulam. In the light of these facts, the Member urged the establishment of a veterinary hospital at Kayankulam. The other need about which the Member spoke was that of a Leper Asylum. As a result of long correspondence between Government and the Kayankulam Municipality, a site had been acquired at Padanayarkulangara for the construction of a Leper Asylum which showed that Government were convinced of the need of such an institution. It would be a great boon to the large number of homeless lepers loitering about the locality, especially during the Oachira festival, if they were given a home where they could be carefully looked after and afforded medical relief. Though they deserved the sympathy of all charitable people, their contact had been proved to be dangerous to public health. It was, therefore, highly desirable that they should be segregated, particularly on the occasion

of the Oachira festival when they flocked in large numbers to the great inconvenience of the large concourse of the Hindu worshippers and were a menace to public health. The Member prayed that the construction of the Leper Asylum might be treated as an urgent matter by Government.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the Veterinary Hospital, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries says that there is no necessity for a Hospital at Kayankulam and that the needs of the Station could be met by the touring Veterinary Assistant. I shall ask the Director to see that the touring Assistant visits Kayankulam every month, and spends a certain number of days there. This officer will spend four or five days at Kayankulam every month and people who own cattle could go to him then.

With regard to the Leper Asylum, I am decidedly of the opinion that there is no need for one at Kayankulam. We are maintaining a big Leper Asylum at Trivandrum at great cost and we are ready to take in as many people there as may come. We are teaching them some vocations also so as to make them useful to themselves and happy for the rest of their lives, as far as it lies in our power. Under the amended Lepers Regulation, lepers can be compelled to go to the Asylum, so that if you find a leper in the streets roaming about and begging, you have only to inform the nearest Magistrate or Police Officer, who will take steps to send him to the Asylum. There are also two grant-in-aid hospitals for lepers, one at Alleppey and the other at Neyyur.

103. Some needs of the Kottayam Municipality.

Mr. M. Joseph (Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam) submitted that the town of Kottayam had only 15 miles of road, while for the same extent Trivandrum had 28, Alleppey 24, and Quilon 19 miles of road. But if the portions of the Main Central and Peermade roads passing through the town were excluded, the town had only one road worth mentioning, viz., the one leading to Tazhattangadi. The lanes that served the other parts of the town were so narrow that along most of them two people could not walk abreast. In the matter of traffic, the town held a peculiar position, being the highway for all commerce between Alleppey and the planting hills in the east. Motor cars, bullock carts, and pedestrians attending courts and markets crowded the few roads in the town throughout the day, the student population nearly seven or eight thousand strong adding to the congestion. No part of Travancore, excepting perhaps certain portions of Nagercoil, stood in more urgent need of additional roads than Kottayam. The Member urged that these roads should be provided from the general revenues. The price of land in the town amounted to nearly Rs. 150 per cent, so that the balance of funds available to the Council would not suffice even for the payment of compensation for the lands acquired. At least 15 miles of additional road were immediately necessary to relieve the congestion. Half the estimated cost might be granted to the Municipal Council as a Government contribution, while the other half might be given as a loan to be repaid by the Council in easy instalments. As to the new roads to be taken up, the most urgent ones were two roads to run parallel to the Kanjikuzhi road, which was the most congested road in the town. The Member then urged the necessity for an inspecting officer to control and guide the activities of the Municipalities along uniform lines, until all the Municipalities of the State so far advanced in public usefulness as to make other towns appreciate the benefits of having a Municipality. He also prayed for the appointment of Municipal Secretaries.

Dewan's reply.—You have spoken about the necessity for an Inspector for the inspection of Municipalities. As regards this, my reply to another Member was that, in my opinion, the appointment of an Inspector was needless. You say that the Municipalities here are infant bodies in the matter of civic administration and require to be educated, that a certain amount of uniformity is necessary and that, in Madras, where Municipalities are far more advanced, there is an Inspector. I may tell you that the post of Inspector of Municipalities in Madras was created only for a year.